



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Attorney General Frosh Releases Maryland Defense Act 2017 Report**

**BALTIMORE, MD (December 22, 2017)** – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today released the Maryland Defense Act 2017 Report, outlining actions taken under the authority of the Maryland Defense Act (MDA) over the last year.

Following threats of unlawful actions by the Trump Administration, the Maryland General Assembly passed the MDA in February 2017, authorizing the Office of Attorney General to file suit on behalf of Marylanders when “the federal government’s action or inaction ... threatens the public interest and welfare of the residents of the State ...”

Since the passage of the MDA, Attorney General Frosh has responded to actions taken by the Trump Administration that were illegal and unconstitutional, posing a threat to the health, safety and welfare of Marylanders. Attorney General Frosh first joined the State of Washington’s suit challenging the constitutionality of President Trump’s Muslim travel bans. Since taking action against the travel bans, Attorney General Frosh has joined other states in opposition to a number of the Administration’s actions, including those that threaten to halt efforts to slow climate change, strip Marylanders’ access to healthcare, roll back protections for students of for-profit schools, and undermine protections for first responders and surrounding communities from chemical accidents.

“The Trump Administration’s actions over the last year threaten the health of the Chesapeake Bay and trample the civil rights of Marylanders. President Trump has also violated the Constitution by putting his personal financial interests above those of our nation,” said Attorney General Frosh. “My office has used the authority granted by the General Assembly to defend Maryland and its citizens from the illegal, unconstitutional, and harmful actions of the Trump Administration.”

Attorney General Frosh and D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine filed suit against President Trump to enforce our nation’s original anti-corruption legislation, the foreign and domestic Emoluments Clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

“Marylanders have the right to honest government, and decisions that impact our nation and our state must be based upon merit and not the President’s potential for personal financial gain,” said Attorney General Frosh. “The clauses ensure that the President will act in the interests of the

people and will not be swayed by the corrupting influence of money or other benefits received from foreign governments, the federal government or state governments.”

A full copy of the Maryland Defense Act of 2017 Report can be found [here](#).